



Maine Farmer.

EZEKIEL HOLMES, Editor.

Our Home, our Country, and our Brother Man.

Bureau of Agriculture.

We hope our readers will not get tired of this subject. We have often, for several years past called attention to the necessity of having such a Bureau connected with our Government at Washington, and urged the farmers and everybody else to take interest enough in it to ask, or rather demand, that a National Agricultural Bureau should be established at Washington, and made a part and parcel of our Governmental machinery.

The chief obstacle to it has been the opposition of Southern members to it. Now that they have, of their own accord taken themselves out of the way, it would seem that it might be established, and the country begin to reap the good fruits which such a Bureau would certainly produce.

The cause of the necessity of this has been the subject of chemical examination, and Professor Vothkier, of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, has made known the results of his researches in this question. He asserts that milk when it begins to ferment, produces a substance analogous in its nature to yeast, such as is used in making bread. This yeast is a species of fungus plant which increases very rapidly when placed where the conditions of its growth are favorable, and when mingled with flour, and the moisture and warmth necessary in making bread changes, the whole mass, if allowed to go on would destroy the whole by causing it to become putrid.

Now milk producing a similar fungus, if any particles are left in the vessel will soon effect any other milk that comes in contact with it, and he has found that this ferment—milk yeast, will not be destroyed by water, and indeed by heating short of water actually heated to the boiling point. Hence every vessel and utensil used in the dairy for any purpose whatever, should pass through the scalding process, and it should be done thoroughly too.

A writer in the Michigan Farmer attributes to this peculiar fermenting or fungous substance, the cause why butter does not possess at all times that perfect sweetness and rich taste that arises from perfectly unchanged milk, and so with cheese in which the changed milk causes a still greater depreciation, and preventing the curd from ever making a first quality cheese. It will hence be seen that boiling hot water should be used freely and liberally in the dairy, and no dairy can be considered complete without convenient fixtures for heating and applying large quantities of water at a perfectly boiling temperature, for the purpose of completely purifying not only the utensils used, but occasionally the dairy room and the shelves themselves, so that none of this milk yeast shall be found anywhere about the premises.

Why Scald Dairy Utensils?

Every one admits that all vessels and utensils used in the dairy should be kept perfectly clean and sweet. Many however, think that merely washing them with water, and wiping them dry is sufficient. It appears, however, from the experience of the most careful and observing that this will not do, but that they should always be scalded or cleansed with boiling hot water, and nothing short of this will answer the purpose.

The cause of the necessity of this has been the subject of chemical examination, and Professor Vothkier, of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, has made known the results of his researches in this question. He asserts that milk debt which every honest, hard working farmer has bred in his very bones. I believe so, because it doesn't require long thinking, nor very deep looking into the marrow of things before the shiver is gone and a more comfortable feeling takes its place, a sort of glow all over one's body as something good has happened, or one is going to happen. I have often, after all, got good pennyworth out of this war, so wickedly forced upon us. A life well spent is not a life lost by any means, nor is a dollar well spent a lost dollar; not half so near it as if hoarded in an old stock, where it ought to have gone into a better fence, or a tighter larn, into a school house or a library, into a sheep pen, or what would come into anything else which would cost in time and trouble, and multiplied and ready to do more work of the same sort, coming out bigger and stronger every time, and replenishing the earth as it goes its rounds. But neighbor Tight-purse says "Isn't a dollar nor a hundred dollars we are talking about, but hundreds of millions. Yes, verily, it is even so big pile. I don't know, nor do I care, enough to know how former war debts run up to a frightful amount and threatened to swamp the country with taxes, and all for matters of small account, compared with this. The old debts were larger in proportion to population and property than this is likely to be, and we can remember, too, how these frightful debts were paid off so easily that it only cost us a few millions to pay them off, and a fair warning to prepare for to-morrow."

"I was thinking of going to market to-morrow with a load of potatoes—do you suppose they will freeze?"

"Not unless it is colder than it is now. We hauled potatoes, in barrels, last year at any time, when the mercury was above 18°, without any danger; for a long distance, though, this would not do. It is said it takes several degrees more of cold to freeze them when in motion than when at rest."

"Potatoes are doing pretty fair in market."

"Yes, Whites bring 40 cents, and at that price we can make a fair profit raising them, provided they don't rot."

"It's no use to plant any kind but Foote's and Johnson's for sale or family use; there's the Calabrian, but it's not so good. It's a good 'old 'em'; they are nothing but a 'bag of water' to stock, and are only fit for stock, and I don't know whether they pay them. They are handy though, to feed occasionally through the winter to keep the cattle loose. I'm feeling more now with my straw and coarse fodder which I like to get rid of before mid-winter."

"Well, Cabbages are poor, isn't fit to eat; and you, but I can't eat, and fed out fifteen or twenty bushels this fall, to my pigs, mixed with oat-meal, and they done well on it."

"I suppose you've butchered; how much did your pigs weigh?"

"One weighed 232, the other 302 pounds, at seven months and two weeks old. That is the largest I ever heard of, though I never raised them. They got nothing during the summer, but the waste milk of three cows and slops from the house, and were fattened on potatoes, oat-meal and bran, and corn for the last month. They both received the same keeping, yet the sow gained the fastest. I have always found that sow pigs are best for killing, but barrows are better to keep over."

"I suppose you are bound to have a spare pig for market."

"Yes, I shall pack them in snow in a nice clean barrel, and will keep first rate, I guess."

"But I prefer the great salt-potato which, with God's help, we work to out for ourselves, there are a great many other ways in which benefits will come of it, and so many and so great that I am not sure that even ean out the great object, it may be cheap still. The fact is the body politic needs a good physicking, having a good many chronic ailments and a bad humor of its already. Isn't it good to see political parties beginning to fuse into one grand party of patriotism? Isn't it good to see wile wire pulling-party leaders at their wits end, fusing into like we have seen an old hen after setting on duck's eggs, when she sees her brood take to the water? Wouldn't it be good if their noddles should be driven to hold together a good many chronic ailments and a bad humor of its already. Isn't it good to see political parties beginning to fuse into one grand party of patriotism? 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THE MAINE FARMER: AN

Maine Farmer.

Augusta, Thursday, Dec. 26, 1861.

NOTICE TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

Mr. S. N. TAVER will immediately commence his annual call upon subscribers in Kennebunk County.
Col. Wm. SWART will call upon subscribers in Oxford County.
Mr. J. D. WARREN will call upon subscribers in Kennebunk and Kennebunkport during the month of November.
Mr. WARREN FULLER will call upon subscribers in Saco.

News of the Week.

The difficulty with England growing out of the Maine and Sheldall affair, it is now thought will not necessarily involve the two countries in war. No direct information has been made public in regard to the tenor of the instructions of the English government to Lord Lyons, but it is believed that no peremptory demand will be made for their release, and that a simple disavowal of any unfriendly intentions on our part in the act complained of will be sufficient to restore amicable relations. The unexpected arrival home of Gen. Scott by the steamer Arago, is regarded as a harbinger of peace. It is reported that he bears with him the personal expression of the Emperor Napoleon in favor of a settlement of the difficulty without a resort to arms. The tone of the English papers has grown less belligerent, and the affair of the Trent is discussed by them in much better temper than at first. The idea of referring the whole matter to friendly arbitration is regarded by some of the London press with favor, and Louis Napoleon is mentioned as the party whose peaceful offices might be successfully invoked by both parties for the purpose of bringing the question to a settlement. It is stated also that President Lincoln and the Cabinet are anxious to avoid a collision, and will cheerfully make any sacrifices consistent with the honor of the country, and our rights as belligerents, to bring about so desirable a result. If the government of Great Britain are equally desirous of preserving peace, there need be no further difficulty apprehended.

The intelligence of several gratifying successes to our arms has been received during the past week. One of the most decisive affairs of the war is the defeat of a large body of the rebels in Western Missouri, near Warrenton, by a portion of Gen. Pope's command, the surrender of thirteen hundred prisoners, including four field officers and seventeen captains, and the capture of the 3d Maine regiment. He says the two Augusta and one of the Bath companies are the only ones whose commanding officers have not been changed by resignation or promotion. All of Capt. Bachelor's company who came out are alive, with the exception of one individual, who was probably killed in the battle of Manassas.

THE LEGISLATURE. The Legislature of Maine will commence a session in this city on Wednesday next. The business to come before this body will be of an important character—comprising, among other matters, the inauguration of a new and vigorous Military System—the protection of the scientific interests of the State—the continuation of the Constitutional Survey which has been so auspiciously commenced, &c. The session will undoubtedly be a busy one, and we trust the members will be able to spend their time here profitably to their constituents and pleasantly to themselves. To facilitate this latter object, it is presumed that our citizens generally will extend the usual hospitalities to the strangers with our gates, and that those with whom the members shall make their temporary homes will do all in their power to make their stay here pleasant and comfortable. We understand the proprietors of the several hotels are making extra preparations to receive their legislative guests—renovating and refurbishing their rooms, obtaining the services of polite and attentive waiters, and re-plenishing their larders with those creature comforts which go so far to make men contented with themselves and with each other. In doing this they will achieve a double good—consulting alike their own interests and preserving unmarred the enviable reputation which Augusta has always enjoyed as an agreeable and hospitable resort for those whom business or pleasure may bring to make their temporary abode with us.

THE MAINE SEVENTH. We are informed that the following resignations have taken place in the Maine Seventh Regiment, now stationed at Lewiston, on the Potowmack. Capt. H. R. Hall, Lt. Henry Austin, Co. I; Capt. G. H. Norris, Co. K; Lt. Hager, Co. D; Lt. Simeon Walton, Co. G; Lt. J. M. Andrews, Co. F; Adjutant E. Johnson.

Capt. J. W. Channing of Co. E, is now stationed in this city on recruiting service for the regiment, and those who wish to join one of the best of the Maine regiments, under an able and experienced commander, are recommended to make immediate application. Capt. Channing himself is an officer who has seen much personal service. As a member of the Ninth New England Regiment, he marched with the American army from Vera Cruz to the city of Mexico, and participated in the glorious conflict which resulted in the triumphant occupation of the "Halls of Montezuma" by Gen. Scott. His former military experience, doubtless, will be made useful in the position which he now occupies.

PARADE OF FOUR THOUSAND TROOPS. On Thursday last, for the gratification of an excursion party from Portland, the entire volunteer force now encamped in this city, consisting of Col. Goddard's cavalry regiment, the 13th, 14th and 15th infantry, and the six batteries of light artillery, numbering in all more than four thousand men, paraded through the principal streets of this city. It was the finest military display ever witnessed in Maine, and served to give the citizens a sense of pride and satisfaction.

AT CAIRO. Gen. Halleck's fleet of a dozen iron-clad gun-boats are fitting up for their voyage down the Mississippi. They are reported to have stood their severe tests with complete success. The General is pushing on his other preparations with great vigor, and will be ready to take the field in a week or two.

The fire in Charleston proves to have been more disastrous than any which has ever occurred on this continent. The loss is estimated at six or seven million dollars, and comprised nearly all the most wealthy and business portions of the city. Little doubt exists that it was the work of negro incendiaries.

We have news from Port Royal of the successful occupation by our troops of Beaufort, Lady Island, St. Helena, Bay Point and Hutchinson's Island. Large quantities of cotton have been secured, 120,000 lbs. of which has already arrived at New York. A portion of Gen. Wright's brigade were in occupation of Tybee Island, and the balance, including the Maine 9th, was to follow.

A portion of Butler's expedition has been landed on Ship Island, at the mouth of the Mississippi, and another detachment is on its way. Gen. Butler will follow with the remainder in a few days. Important results are expected from this expedition.

We have news of the re-opening of the fire upon the rebel batteries at Pensacola by Fort Pickens. The result is unknown.

THE WEATHER. During the most of the present month, the ground has been bare of snow as in July, and the weather has been mild as a winter in the South. But on Sunday night last an old-fashioned northeast snow-storm made its advent, and at the time of writing, Tuesday morning, it continues with unabated violence. No doubt the roads will be badly blocked, and the railroads temporarily delayed for a time, but the snow-plow and the surveyor's team will soon put things to rights, and shall be gladened again by the merry chimes of the sleigh-bells, and the sights and sounds of business in our streets, so long interrupted by the lack of good winter transportation and travel.

THE NORTH KENNEBEC AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY. will hold its annual meeting at the Town Hall in Waterville, on Tuesday, January 7th, at ten o'clock. P. M., for the election of officers and other business. At 2 o'clock, P. M., the annual address will be delivered before the Society by Rev. W. A. P. Dillingham of Sidney.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES. are announced to be held at the Unitarian, Universalist and Episcopal churches in this city on this Tuesday evening.

Military Items.

THE INVASION OF MAINE THREATENED. The encampments in this city are now besieged by an assailant whose coming, long expected, but long delayed, we are glad to know our soldiers are well prepared for. They are now emphatically in "winter quarters." Favore, however, by the fine weather of the past month, they have been able to make every necessary provision for the cold and storm of a Maine winter, so that the encampments of the several regiments are as comfortable as the friends of the soldiers can desire.

No definite information has been obtained in regard to the time of the departure of the troops. We see it that in consequence of instructions received by our authorities at Augusta, that such of the Maine troops as shall not have left the State on the 1st of January, will thereafter be immediately paid off by a paymaster sent for that purpose, Gov. Washburn has expressed a desire that the cavalry, other regiments, and the batteries now in camp at Augusta, may be permitted to remain there until they have been paid. The convenience of the soldiers, the comfort of their families and the interest of the State will be promoted thereby.

The field and staff officers of the 14th regiment are as follows: F. S. Nickerson, Colonel; Elie Milliken, Lieutenant Colonel; T. J. Porter, Major; J. M. Wiswell, Sergeant Major; C. A. Bickman, Adjutant; J. H. Crowell, Quarter Master; B. G. Glidden, Q. M. Sergeant; Dr. Adams, Surgeon; Dr. Wescott, Assistant Surgeon. The Sixth Battery, Capt. Freeman McGivern, is to be attached to the regiment.

The Boston Journal states that Capt. J. R. Brady of the 5th Maine, arrived in that city on Tuesday night last, en route for Washington, with 221 recruits, destined to fill up Maine regiments in service, as follows: 99 are for the 2d, 95 for the 5th, and 19 for the 6th. These recruits were good specimens of Maine men. Not one of the whole number stands less than five feet eight inches, and quite a number measure six feet.

Company I, of the 7th Maine, has been merged in company K, Capt. Norris and Rolf having resigned, and Graville C. Cahan has been appointed Captain.

A correspondent of the Kennebec Journal states that Capt. Sampson, of Bath, afterwards chosen Major, has received the appointment of Lt. Colonel of the 3d Maine regiment. He says the two Augusta and one of the Bath companies are the only ones whose commanding officers have not been changed by resignation or promotion. All of Capt. Bachelor's company who came out are alive, with the exception of one individual, who was probably killed in the battle of Manassas.

THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY for January is received. No previous number surpasses this in value and interest. It is only necessary to enumerate the contents to show the high literary character of this magazine, of which the country may well be proud. Professor Agassiz contributes the first of a series of papers upon the Methods of Study in Natural History; Agnes of Sorrento is continued; Jefferson and Slavery is a historical paper of great value at the present time; James Fenimore Cooper is the subject of an interesting essay; Love and Skates, by Major Winthrop is continued; Dr. Winship furnishes Autobiographical Sketches of a Strength Seeker and Friend's Hundred Days in Missouri, will be read by the Pathfinder's admirers. The True Heroine and Peter Nebrias Luminaria, are beautiful poems. Jas. Russell Lowell reappears in the Bigelow Papers—those heavy and healthy humor finds abundant exercise upon the present condition of our public affairs. There is the usual amount of Reviews and Literary Notices, all ably written. The publishers have engaged Professor Agassiz to contribute a series of articles upon Natural History and kindred topics. They will extend through the year and be a valuable feature. Ticknor and Fields, publishers, Boston, at \$3 per annum.

THE KNICKERBOCKER for January is received. This monthly begins the thirteenth year of its existence, we should judge, with unabated vigor and excellence. It is emphatically one of the best magazines of the day. It holds its meetings each Saturday evening, in one of the large tents. At a late meeting the following question was debated, "Would it be just and politic to free the slaves and arm them against the Rebellion?" It was decided by a large majority in the negative.

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THE NEW YORK WORLD for January is received. This movement is likely to be not less important than the capture of Hilton Head or Tybee Island, and will be a great blow to the rebels, and to the position occupied by the rebels. Our loss is reported 6 killed and 8 wounded. The troops returned to camp in the evening with 50 wagons loads of forage. The success of this affair is regarded all the more noteworthy from the fact that none of our men had ever been under fire.

Gen. Burnside's expedition is about ready for departure, which will probably take place within the week. The strength of the land and naval forces composing the expedition, and their destined point of operation, are, as they should be, concealed from the public knowledge. The general understanding seems to be that Burnside's operations are to be made in connection with a forward movement on the Potowmack.

In Kentucky a decisive engagement seems to be imminent. We have in the State nearly 120,000 armed men at the present moment. The rebels have not over 100,000 of all kinds. Buell, with nearly half of our force, faces Buckner near Bowling Green; while Schoepf confronts Zillefeller near Somerset, to the east of the former place. An excellent feeling of confidence pervades our men, and we have no doubt the event will justify it, and we hope soon.

At Cairo, Gen. Halleck's fleet of a dozen iron-clad gun-boats are fitting up for their voyage down the Mississippi. They are reported to have stood their severe tests with complete success. The General is pushing on his other preparations with great vigor, and will be ready to take the field in a week or two.

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AGRICULTURAL AND FAMILY

Editor's Table.

Letter from the Third Regiment.
CAMP HOWARD,
Burgundy Farm, Va., Dec. 18, 1861.

DEAR FARMER.—The delightful season known in New England as the Indian Summer, "comes slowly down this way," and we are now in the full enjoyment of its sunny skies and balmy air. While friends at home are wading through snow drifts and vainly endeavoring to protect themselves from the biting cold, we in the "Army of the Potowmack" are enjoying the most delightful weather. No snow is on the ground. The snow squall that I incidentally mentioned in my last letter, proved a vain bluster, and like the patrism of the home guard, resulted in nothing.

The first article of the number, we suppose by the editor, entitled "The Situation," is a well written review of events connected with the present conflict with the Southern rebellion, and the political complications which suggest themselves in the methods of its treatment. A leading object of the magazine is to be the discussion of the momentous political issues which now agitate the country, while other departments of literary and social interest will receive due attention.

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THE MAINE FARMER: AN

Poetry.

The drums salute the sun
On the stony coast of Maine;
And the rolling ocean rolls
The thunder of the ocean again;
Over prairies, mountains lakes,
All the world is in the sun;
And the continent awakes,
As the morning marches on!

As the rivers feed the sea,
When the floods are at their height,
So the winds sweep the ocean;
Swirl the armies of the Right.
The world quakes with fear,
With the tempest of the war;
And the ocean feels the jar
As the morning marches on!

Yet, not on earth alone,
Is the morning's hymn heard;
These stirring songs of ours
The armies of the sky;
The world's march is on,
Their banners have unfurled,
And glorious armies are on high.

The earth's silent star.

As he walks his lonely round,
When his heart is drawing near,
At the ocean's edge, the sand,
With a strange cold thrill of dread,
Call him to his bower.

And the world is silent.

The斯迦斯的草原; the world;

The smile of the Lord;

And the world is silent.

With a smile on his hands,
Gazing Freedom's chosen lands

From a hymn adored.

The stars of the Patriotic song.

The world's hymn of light,

The birth of Freedom's might;

For the world is on high;

And the world's hymn of war.

Then the stars are gone.

Tramp! tramp! he hears them march

On the bending fields of space;

They shake the earth with awe;

Like banners of the sun, salt,

Through the midnight's smoky pall,

Followed by a crimson trace.

Once more the Spanish blades;

The Scythian grasses wave;

The smile of the Lord;

And the world is silent.

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